

just straightforward in telling you what my position is. Now what this particular amendment does is to say if the Pardons Board should commute one of those sentences to a term of years, and they have commuted on a regular basis life sentences to a term of years, that in this particular category, let me give an example. Say that they say the sentence is 20 to 60 years. The person who received that commutation would not be eligible for parole until the 60 years had been served which means they would not be paroled. That is a mandatory release date. The operation of the good time law would be erased and they would have to serve all of those years. The only way that the Pardons Board could get a person out very early is to make sure that the maximum sentence they imposed was the number of years they wanted that person to serve. The responsibility would not be bucked to the Board of Parole. It would be up to the Pardons Board. If they felt this person should be out in ten years, they could not give a span of years or a range of years, the top half of which was more than ten. This is designed to try to address some of the issues that people were raising last session before somebody felt they discovered America by getting a copy of a letter I wrote to Otey. Anybody who would have asked me what he asked me would have gotten the same answer. And I believe if you consider the things I've said I have said before that I think life without parole is excessive in every case. But, by the same token, I've mentioned instances where people who were sentenced to life under the present law have served a tremendous number of years and they're still out there. The myth exists that suggests that I think people who commit terrible crimes should not be punished. That's not it at all. I say they should not be killed by the state. I do not condone the act of the murderer. And the only time I talk about bad, worse and worst murders is when it's in the context of the fact that the law has distinguished one from the other and the circumstances under which it is committed. But the victim is dead no matter what. If there is sexual assault, if there is torture, if there is a bullet fired through the heart or through the brain and death is instantaneous, the person is as dead in every instance. If I don't want to see anybody improperly given a ticket, it should be clear that I don't want anybody's life to be taken by some other person. I don't favor murder. I may be more opposed to it than anybody in here, as opposed to it as anybody in here. And this talk of just saying have concern for the victims supposed to be the kind of thing that establishes your credentials as one who is compassionate doesn't hold up when we look at all of the other issues that come before us when